

AGAWAM F. F. A. HAS REORGANIZED

TEN HOURS
OF TERROR

By Joan O'Connor

It was July 19 in the year 2000. The day was humid and calm. I remember it very well, because it was the day this story happened.

I was at work when the atomic-shelter siren began to scream. No one knew whether it was a drill or the real thing. However, we quietly filed to the shelter.

"Is it the A-Bomb?" questioned Jim Barker, my co-worker.

"No one knows," I replied, "word hasn't been received yet."

After about ten tense minutes of waiting for the all-clear signal, the president of the company entered the room.

"Don't get alarmed," he said seriously, "but the scientists at the 'Solar Observatory' think something's happening out in the universe. They're sending men out in rockets to make reports. We're commanded to stay in our shelters until further notice."

Confusion started. Someone shouted, "What's going to happen to us?"

"Quiet!" boomed a loud voice, "If everyone will keep quiet and co-operate, it'll help news to get here quicker."

Silence prevailed. Thirty minutes passed, an hour, three hours. Finally Mr. Markham returned.

"I've received word from the observatory that the sun has lost it's gravitation and is hurtling towards the earth at miles per minute!"

Meanwhile, at the observatory, there's a hustling of men and a rustling of papers as preparations begin to use the newest "Atomic-Repelling-Magnet" against the sun.

"At the rate the sun is travelling," reported one scientist, "it should reach here in about . . . ten hours!"

"Get the people to shelters underground, as the heat's increasing already. Check everyone to see if their cooling systems in their space suits are working. Get this order to every office, factory, etc. And keep calm!"

So the people went quietly and fearfully to the shelters. There, everything needed was provided.

The temperature was 130 degree F. and getting increasingly hotter. People were scurrying to get their

children into their space-cooled suits.

At the same time, men at the observatory are in action to get the repeller-magnet out of storage. It had just been completed by Dr. Zachir and had not been tried, but everyone had confidence in it. It was out, a shiny, black, high circle of metal. Where was the sun coming from? Scanning the viewscopes, they saw it in the northeast.

"Aim the repeller-magnet."

Six hours passed. Would it work? Shall we live or be doomed? Men, women, and children, praying and asking.

It was ready! The heat was almost unbearably hot, even in cooler-suits. The light was blinding. Men worked on, paying no heed to the deadly oven coming closer.

Two more hours passed. Everything was ready. Silence reigned. Throw the switch. The sun was very close. Would it work?

They said it would take at least an hour before they would know. Slowly time passes, while men searched the viewscopes. A tense silence was on!

One had noticed a difference! Yes! It worked! The sun was slowly receding. The world, saved! After ten hours of terror, people streamed out of the shelters and gave thanks to God and modern science.

MY BEST GIFT

I've received many gifts that were valuable, and I know the givers had to struggle to get them for me. I appreciated them very much, but none of them were more outstanding than the rest.

The gift that I treasure most was the gift of God—the privilege of having a fine mother and father, and the privilege of having a clean home. We're not rich, but we were never left without food, clothing, or a nice home. Most of the time I get what I want if it's within reason. My mother and father go without, so that I may have something new for Easter or a new dress for a dance.

Yes, that's the biggest and greatest gift I ever received, and I know I'll never appreciate anything as much as my parents and home.

Joan Barbieri

JOAN O'CONNOR
SHORT STORY
WINNER

First-prize winner in the Short Story Contest conducted by the Agawam Mirror was Joan O'Connor for her story, "Ten Hours of Terror." Lillian Brusseau captured second prize for her story, "Lost on an Island." Third prize went to John Bumstead Statue in the Museum of Fine Arts." Congratulations, kids. Who knows, someday we may be reading your great works in our "American Literature" books.

The Mirror wishes to express its thanks to the judges, Miss Phelps, Mrs. Nardi, Mrs. Sears, Miss Miller, and Mr. Holmes, for their cooperation. Entries were judged on the basis of plot, characters, general interest, and originality.

As there were only three entries, there were no Honorable Mentions, and every entry won a prize. Let's hope that more of you talented people try for some of that prize-money in the next contest.

ALUMNI

Another month and another group from last year's class, so here goes.

Elliot Aitchison, Louis Fasoli, Richard San George and Joe Knapp are attending the General Electric School in Pittsfield.

Training in various hospitals are Harriet Beltrandi, Patricia Dowd, Marcia Gould, Shirley King and Connie St. John. Ginger Aselton is at Bay Path. Elizabeth Conway, Marie DeMaio, Gerry Dickinson, Dolores Gallerani, Dolores LaRiviere, Cynthia Gay and Arlene Miller are working at the Telephone Company.

Wedding bells rang out for Jean Leger this summer when she married Ronald Brawsay. Following her were Arlene Miller '52 and Dominic DeCelementi '50. Shirley Druzba and Dolores Gallerani have also been married recently.

Joe Racicot is in the Air Corps, and Dom Lepore has joined the Marines. We'll be back next month with more news of our alumni.

P. S. Marie DeMaio's engagement to Robert Andrus has just been announced.

The Agawam Chapter has reorganized completely. Besides the combined F. F. A. Chapter we have split into six different clubs so that similar interests are grouped together to give every one a chance to participate in the activity of his own choosing. We hope by this means greater accomplishment and greater zeal will make Agawam a better and wiser F. F. A. Chapter. Each club has its own president and secretary. The president and secretary of the chapter are not allowed to hold office in these subsidiary clubs, giving every one a chance at leadership.

The clubs are as follows:

Tractor Maintenance Club

President—Charles Granger

Secretary—James Reardon

Livestock Club

President—Bruce Dodd

Secretary—Frank Moruzzi

Gardening Club

President—Ralph D'Amato

Secretary—Peter Cecchi

Tobacco Club

President—Stanley Sowiecki

Secretary—Clyde Light

Dairy Club

President—James Reardon

Secretary—Robert Wilmes

Poultry Club

President—Clyde Light

Secretary—Donald Hall

Besides the election of officers, the following clubs met on their own. The Poultry Club met at the Hampden County Improvement League building to see a demonstration of new equipment. The Livestock Club met at the Hampden County Improvement League Building to discuss V. E. with men from the college. The Tractor Club met at Olson to see the new Ford tractor.

At the F. F. A. Square Dance on January 24, Eileen Haseltine was

(Continued On Page Two)

NOTICE

Seniors with a flair for fashion design are invited to compete for the new Forest City Fashion Scholarship awards, which will send two national winners to college next fall to study dress and textile design. Details on the awards and official entry blanks are available in the principal's office.



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Editorial

CHEATING

Would you like to be termed as a swindler, an imposter, or a CHEAT? When you copy another student's homework, you are taking something to which you have no right—you are a swindler. When you hand the copied material to the teacher, you are an imposter, working under the cover of a faithful, hard-working, conscientious student.

Is it fair to ask a fellow student to do the dirty work while you just

loaf or have a good time, and then assume the credit for it? If a classmate should refuse to allow you to copy his work, as he has a perfect right too, you may cause undue embarrassment and friction. You put your friend on the spot, for it is difficult to refuse to allow a fellow student to copy. Yet, if he honestly feels it's not right and does refuse you, you think he is selfish, a snob, a brownie.

What do you actually gain by cheating—a mark in that little green book? Why do you come to school in the first place? Not to fool a teacher, but to acquire valuable knowledge and develop skills to help you lead a successful and happy life.

Learn to work and think for yourself, by yourself, so that some day, when you might be forced to do so, you will not be hopelessly lost. Put the honor system into effect at A. H. S.; be known as an honest man. What degree of satisfaction or personal achievement can you procure by merely copying someone else's answers? Do you think people will respect you or that "A" you might possibly get, knowing the manner in which you obtained it?

I would much rather say I flunked a test than to have someone say I had been so low as to resort to deceitful cheating.

Your Editor

LIBRARY BOOKS

"They Have Found a Faith"

By Marcus Bach

Here is adventure and education, a trip along the by ways of American religion and a lesson in the power of faith—vital in a day of doubt.

"Layman's Guide To Modern Art"

By Mary Chalmers Rathbun and Bartlett H. Hayes, Jr.

I recommend this book to all those who are interested in Modern Art. This book is more than an ordinary picture book. It shows by visual examples what the abstract conception of art really means.

"The Long Arctic Night"

By Kurt Schmeltzer

This is a story of an expedition which is told as a contemporary account by one of the crew. It emerges as an unforgettable story of courage and humanity, as well as a remarkable and stirring tale of adventure and discovery.

"The Artist's Handbook of Materials Techniques"

By Ralph Maye

This is a sound handbook for artists—accurate, concise, comprehensive, and dependable. If one had to choose a single book on the technique of painting, this is certainly the one.

"The Heart of Charles Dickens"

By Edgar Johnson

This book is about letters of Charles

Dickens, for the first time assembled in book form.

"Be Prepared"

By R. E. Cochran

This is a humorous story of the life and illusions of a scoutmaster. For the liveliest kind of reading pleasure, this is a wonderful, unexpurgated story of scouts and scouting.

AGAWAM F.F.A.

(Continued From Page One)

crowned the Sweetheart of the Agawam Chapter F. F. A. Eileen lives on a farm on School Street. She has



been the secretary to the Agricultural department for the past year doing wonderful work at typing, mimeographic and stenographic work for the chapter. Her wonderful smile and pleasant disposition have been an inspiration to all.

The committees on the dance and their chairmen were as follows: Dance Committee—Frank Moruzzi; Checking Committee—Stanley Osowiecki; Refreshment Committee—Charles Granger; Ticket Selling Committee—Bill Munsell; Policing Up Committee—Donald Hall.

The Executive Committee of the Agawam Chapter met at the Hotel Highland in Springfield on Tuesday, January 20, 1953, for its first annual banquet meeting. Many good ideas were considered after having a wonderful repast.

Agawam and West Springfield Chapters met on Wednesday, January 21, 1953, and had a panel of discussion on What Is The Outlook For a

Future Farmer in New England. Everyone went swimming at the "Y" after the discussion.

SENIOR NEWS

The class of '53 is busy preparing the yearbook, hoping to make it one of the best Agawam has seen. Now, Juniors, don't shudder—it's not all work. Almost everyone in the class participates, and it's a good chance to mix business with pleasure.

The chairmen of the committees are as follows: Steering Committee, Ann Scott, Betty Schoolcraft, Dan Barufaldi, Dick August and Bob Couture; Clubs and Sports, Barbara Statkun; History, Bob Hardina; Statistics, Ann Tate; Will, Janet Willard; Prophecy, Jim Fogg; Poem, Ellen Claus and Lillian Brusseau; Art and Photography, Susie Draghetti; Gifts, Barbara Borgatti; Circulation and Typing, Gerry Longey; Ads, Cynthia Hoyer; Song, Jeff Atwater and Bob Hardina. Looks like it'll be a good yearbook!

Well, that is all for now. See you next month with more Senior news and views.

"No, no, no. You can't give me a swimming lesson today."

"What's the matter? You let me do it yesterday."

"Yes, but I learned my lesson."

* * *

"I'm going to let you out of jail if you promise to avoid bad company."

"Thanks so much. You'll never see me here again."

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LOST ON AN ISLAND

By Lillian Brusseau

"Toss that gear on the beach, and let's take a swim before we eat. That'll build up an appetite for us."

"Who needs to build up an appetite? I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse right now. Who ever heard of going on a picnic in the middle of April anyway? We ought to have our heads examined!" Tommy's voice was dark with antagonism, but there was a twinkle in his eye. "Beat you all in!" he yelled as he dashed headlong into the icy waters. "Last one in's a rotten egg!"

There was bedlam and confusion as the gang of boys and girls ran into the water. A shouting of names and a mixture of screams rose from the lips of the high school crowd.

"Did you ever feel anything so cold in all your life?" one of the girls asked, as they all scrambled out of the lake.

"Not since Harriet dumped that bucket of ice chips down my back last summer," her companion replied. "Boy, I could sure use a good strong cup of coffee and a couple of hot hamburgers."

"I second the motion! Let's eat."

After the fire on the beach had been put out, the gang went over to the boathouse and rented some canoes to explore the islands.

"Let's each take a girl in our canoe."

Tommy's suggestion brought shouts of laughter from his friends. "Are

you sure you're not just looking for an excuse to be alone with Ann?" "We know you pretty well, you know." His friends gave him a knowing glance.

"Well, I notice the ones who laughed the longest and the loudest, were the ones who seconded the motion." Tommy sounded very pleased with himself, and Ann couldn't suppress a tiny giggle.

"What in heck was that?"

"Oh, bro-o-ther! Everything happens to us! We've hit a sandbar." The boat was rapidly filling with water. Genuine concern registered in Tommy's voice as he said, "We'd better swim for that island over there."

"Boy, it's a good thing we weren't too far from shore. I'm not much of a swimmer. Gosh, now what are we going to do?"

"We'll just have to wait 'till one of the kids finds us. I hope they hurry up about it. This isn't exactly the warmest day we've had."

"Can't we build a fire or something?" I'm just about frozen to death. Besides, one of the others is bound to spot it!"

"Oh, Ann! Use your head! Where do you suppose I'd get dry matches?"

"I guess you're right, but can't you do something?"

"Well, I'm no boy scout, but I can try to start a fire by rubbing some sticks together. I wonder how long that would take?"

"I don't know, I'm sure, but get started now before I get pneumonia. It's started to get dark."

Suddenly they heard the sloshing of oars and they both ran to the edge of the water.

"There's one of the boats over there! We're over here, Ronnie! This way!" Ann's voice rang out excitedly into the still night. As the canoe came nearer, Ann turned and said to Tommy, "Maybe someday we'll both laugh about this day, but right now I'm glad it's all over with."

Tommy merely nodded his agreement.

MY AMBITION

After I graduate I would like very much to go down South or some place in the country where they need teachers. In some towns down South the children can't go to school because there are no teachers.

I think these children should have as much of a chance for an education as any one else, yet they are deprived of it. Either there is no teacher or schoolhouse, or sometimes the "classy" people just won't let children go to school, just because they are another color or different religion.

When I get out of college, I really want to go somewhere where I feel I am needed to teach.

Maureen Murphy

POLIO SPURS NOTABLES TO NEW FAME

When Texas A. & M. track star, Walter Davis, soared 6 feet, 8.32 inches over the crossbar to set a new record in the high jump at the 1952 Olympics, he was achieving something for all polio sufferers. For many of those who have had polio win outstanding success in a variety of fields, and all are inspirations to the others. Present-day life abounds with notables who have overcome the physical handicaps imposed by polio. Most have returned to reach new heights in their field.

In the realm of sports, where muscular coordination is so essential, another star who suffered an early attack of polio is Nancy Merki of Portland, Oregon, who holds more than a score of swimming records. Six years before she won her first swimming championship at the age of 13, Nancy was stricken with polio. She reversed the verdict of "crippled for life" by swimming her way back to health and national aquatic honors.

Heine Brock, starred as "The Funniest Man on Skates," in the "Ice Follies," contracted polio at the age of 14. He was unable to walk for eight months. But he won both health and fame as a figure skater and swimming star.

Another skating star who had polio during early childhood is Tenley Albright of Newton Center, Massachusetts, who placed second in figure skating at the 1952 Olympics. She, too, has been active in March of Dimes events.

From wheel chair to horseback riding was the sequence for Mrs. Lis Hartel of Copenhagen, Denmark, who won second prize in the 1952 Olympics in the formal horseback riding competition. Her opponents were mainly men. She was stricken with polio seven years ago. When she resumed horseback riding two years later, it was necessary to carry her from a wheel chair to the horse for mounting.

In the theatrical world, Christine Ayres is known as "Show Girl of the Year." She had polio at the age of four. During several bedridden years, her mother encouraged her to walk by citing the example of graceful, agile dancers. Surpassing her mother's fondest hopes, Christine became a talented dancer and stage star.

Lovely Radio Star Dinah Shore, Concert Singer Mack Harrell, Orchestra Leader Elliot Lawrence, Film Star Ida Lupino and Ventriloquist Paul Winchell are other polio patients who have become celebrities in the entertainment field.

Of course the polio patient who will go down in history as the most notable figure to win the battle with

polio is the last President Roosevelt. Not only will his personal victory over the dread scourge remain the greatest inspiration to other sufferers, but present and future generations of polio victims will remember him gratefully for his incalculable contribution toward making expert polio treatment available to everyone by founding the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

COMMERCIAL NEWS

The girls in the shorthand class are making rapid progress. Recently Lucille Ferrarini, Marian Hess, Gerry Longey and Mary Lynch passed their 80-words per minute Gregg Shorthand Test. They are on the way to far greater speeds, trying always to attain a faster speed than before.

In typewriting II, Barbara Cheney, Adrienne Grasso and Carol Pallo are vying for top honors. You never have to look anywhere but at the top of the list for their names.

We should also mention that last year Gerry White passed not only her 80 wpm Gregg Shorthand Test but also her 100 wpm.

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ROVING REPORTER

Question of the month: What do you consider the greatest essential for success?

Mrs. Nardi—Determination.
Bob August—A lot of girls.
Dan Barufaldi—A good wife.
Bob Couture—A good high school background.

Don Stahle—A good knowledge of women.

Bob Hardina—A car.
Vaughn Kelley—An ability to get along with everybody.

Mr. Harris—Good hard work.
Alan McEwan—A goal to work toward.

Jean Hebert—Know what to do and when to do it.

Miss Durkan—Perseverance.
Sue Draghetti—Something to work for.

Marcia Binnenkade — Ability to make new friends.

Irving Senesac—Brains and breaks.
Julie Mercier—A man.
Joseph Sliech—Love.
Richard Coburn—Ambition.

Marilyn Wilson—Knowing how to handle boys.

Judy Peterson — Cooperation and understanding.

Jean Maule—Personality, skill, and right connections.

Dolores Luccardi—Patience, talent and personality.

Carol Pallo—Perserverance, a helping hand, and encouragement.

"Jack, you've been married a long time. How on earth do you make your wife pay attention to you?"

"That's easy. I pretend I'm talking in my sleep."

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WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF:

Bob B. and Corrine R. stopped fighting?

Bob S. woke up to a little of Betty B.'s sweet talk?

Leo P. gave "Frenchie" a second chance?

Phyllis S. found someone to take Sonny's place?

Teachers didn't give homework?

Albert Girotti flunked a test?

Carole Sulborski stopped laughing?

Larry Gallerani stopped teasing the girls?

Dick DiLullo and Ronnie LaFleur ran out of chewing gum?

Robert Moulthrop got a girl?

Murph didn't blush?

Everyone had their Mirror assignments in on time?

Texas brought in an absence excuse?

Joyce didn't write to Frank?

Red Senesac cleaned his "bucks"?

Bob Couture got a new car?

Jean Gravel didn't come to school with any troubles?

Johnny asked Esther for a date in advance?

Sara Jo and Craig couldn't find an empty coat closet?

Dick Hall got absent-minded?

Bob Couture made up his tests on time?

Jerry White cut her hair?

Joyce Gazar didn't sit with Fred and Ellen?

Polly Placido saw Bob more than once a month?

Frances Willard won her man?

Lois Lindblad couldn't find any gossip?

Geary Hinshaw got a red cow?

Neil Lawson couldn't go skiing?

Mary Lynch couldn't go out with that senior boy?

The lights went out on Joe and Avalon in their corner of the upstairs corridor?

Dot Stuart couldn't wear C. M.'s Peanut Bowl jacket?

Judy Peterson didn't take that walk every noon?

Alan McEwan stopped going through town sideways?

The seniors acted sophisticated?

The nine "Monstors" acted their age?

Lois Merwin stopped talking?

Joanie had that date?

Carol and John stopped fighting?

"My family refuses to let me marry you."

"Do they object to my standing?"

"No, to your staggering."

* * *

Conceited Cuss—Supposing some real ugly looking fellow tried to kiss you—would you object?

Blonde—Try me and see!

* * *

"Gee, they must ask a lot for the rent of a nice apartment like this."

"Do they? They ask every time they catch me in."



BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Here's how the scoring stands so far this season:

Player	Points
Brissette	95
Couture	58
Anderson	57
O'Keefe	27
Hall	24
Cheney	19
Bruno	18
August	11
Polanzak	6
Molta	2
Cardone	1

Congratulations, boys. Dick Hall has been chosen captain of our basketball team.

December 12 was our first game of the 52-53 season. The game was played at Agawam against a fine team from St. Mary's of Westfield. Agawam put on a fine exhibition of basketball, and won the game by a score of 53-32. By this showing of basketball it seems as if Agawam is going to have a successful season.

On January 6 we played our first game of the Valley Wheel against Ludlow, the defending champions. After two defeats by Holyoke and Easthampton, Agawam rose to victory with Brissette scoring 14 points. As the final buzzer sounded, the score was 53-45 in favor of Agawam. Couture and August also hit double numbers, Couture getting 12 and August 13. Two players of Ludlow, Kania and Jorge, also hit double figures.

Our third game and second win of the Valley Wheel occurred on January 16. Against a team from Palmer, Agawam won a decisive victory by romping over them 61-31. Brissette was the star of the evening, scoring 24 points, with Anderson trailing with 18. Agawam started to lead early in the game and kept the lead throughout.

Agawam traveled to the Field House to play Commerce on January 17. The Brownies started early in the game to pile up a sizable lead, so that at the half Agawam lead by a score of 36 to 23. In the second half it seemed as though Commerce might whittle down Agawam's lead, but Agawam's brilliant defense in the second half held off Commerce's

threats. Dick Brissette sparked Agawam with 21 points. The final score was Agawam 53, Commerce 47. Laudate and Belli of Commerce were the boys that sparked Commerce's late threats.

On January 20 Agawam whipped Ware by a score of 62-39. It was our third victory in the Valley Wheel against one loss. Agawam started fast, and at the half the score was 34-17. Agawam's offensive was led by Dick Brissette, who scored 21 points, and Bob Anderson with 10. Ware's leading scorer was Rohan with 10 points.

Agawam has been invited to the Western Massachusetts Small School Tournament which will be held at the University of Massachusetts the week of March 1. The tournament will last one week, and Agawam will be able to stay as long as they keep winning. Good luck, boys. Hope you bring home the championship.

In the Junior High Rooms 2 and 3 lead in the eighth grade, and Room 9 leads in the seventh grade.

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